

Serial No.: 10/737,282
Attorney Docket No.: F-748

Patent

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A ~~postage meter~~ printer comprising:
 - a print head;
 - a purge unit for removing ink from the print head; and
 - an ink tray assembly for receiving ink removed from the print head by the purge unit;wherein the ink tray assembly includes:
 - a tray having an opening; and
 - an absorbent pad held in the tray under the cover membrane;
 - a vapor permeable cover membrane sealed across the opening of the tray; and
 - a hole in the cover membrane for sealing to a port of the purge unit.
- 2.-3. (canceled).
4. (original) The postage meter according to claim 3, wherein the absorbent pad has a channel therein positioned in alignment with the hole in the cover membrane.
5. (original) The postage meter according to claim 4, wherein the tray includes a post extending upwardly from a floor of the tray and engaged by the channel in the absorbent pad.
6. (original) The postage meter according to claim 1, further comprising a hole in the cover membrane for sealing to a port of the purge unit.
7. (original) The postage meter according to claim 1, wherein the cover membrane includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

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8. (original) The postage meter according to claim 1, wherein the cover membrane is formed at least in part as a bellows.

9. (currently amended) The postage meter according to claim 1, wherein the cover membrane is of a material adapted to allow vapor to ~~pass~~ evaporate through the material and to substantially prevent waste ink from passing through the material.

10. (original) The postage meter according to claim 9, wherein the material includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

11. (currently amended) A ~~postage meter~~ printer comprising:

a print head;

a purge unit for removing ink from the print head; and

an ink tray assembly for receiving ink removed from the print head by the purge unit;

wherein the ink tray assembly includes:

a tray; and

barrier means, bonded to a rim of the tray, for substantially preventing waste ink from exiting the tray upon ~~tilting~~ an upside-down orientation of the tray.

12. (original) The postage meter according to claim 11, wherein the barrier means includes a membrane that substantially closes an opening of the tray.

13. (original) The postage meter according to claim 12, wherein the ink tray assembly also includes:

an absorbent pad held in the tray under the membrane.

14. (original) The postage meter according to claim 13, further comprising a hole in the membrane for sealing to a port of the purge unit.

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15. (original) The postage meter according to claim 14, wherein the absorbent pad has a channel therein positioned in alignment with the hole in the membrane.

16. (original) The postage meter according to claim 15, wherein the tray includes a post extending upwardly from a floor of the tray and engaged by the channel in the absorbent pad.

17. (original) The postage meter according to claim 12, wherein the membrane includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

18. (original) The postage meter according to claim 12, wherein the membrane is formed at least in part as a bellows.

19. (currently amended) The postage meter according to claim 11, wherein the barrier means includes a material adapted to allow vapor to ~~pass~~ evaporate through the material.

20. (currently amended) A waste ink tray assembly for use in a printer postage meter, the assembly comprising:

a tray;

an absorbent pad held in the tray; and

barrier means, bonded to a rim of the tray, for substantially preventing waste ink from exiting the tray upon ~~tipping~~ an upside-down orientation of the tray.

21. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 20, wherein the barrier means includes a membrane that substantially closes an opening of the tray.

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22. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 21, further comprising a hole in the membrane for sealing to a port of a waste ink purge unit.

23. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 22, wherein the absorbent pad has a channel therein positioned in alignment with the hole in the membrane.

24. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 23, wherein the tray includes a post extending upwardly from a floor of the tray and engaged by the channel in the absorbent pad.

25. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 21, wherein the membrane includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

26. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 21, wherein the membrane is formed at least in part as a bellows.

27. (currently amended) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 20, wherein the barrier means includes a material adapted to allow vapor to pass evaporate through the material.